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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

FUKUOKA et al

Serial No. 10/585,858

Filed: July 12, 2006



Atty. Ref.: 900-556

Group: 1763

Examiner: Unknown

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING APPARATUS
AND SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD
USING THE SAME

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Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

All listed documents are attached.
 Copies of U.S. Patent Publications are not required and are not attached.
 Listed foreign patent publications and other documents are enclosed.
 The partial translations were provided to the undersigned by the applicants' foreign representative. The undersigned has no knowledge regarding the pertinency of the partially translated portions vis-á-vis the document as a whole. The partial translations are merely provided for whatever convenience they may be.

The listed documents were cited in the ISR and copies should have been supplied by WIPO directly to the US PTO. If copies are not timely received from WIPO, please telephone the undersigned so that copies can be timely supplied for the Examiner's consideration in this US National Phase Application.

This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

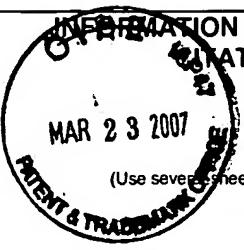
Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

March 23, 2007

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATION

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

English Translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability mailed 31 August 2006 in the corresponding PCT application no. PCT/JP2005/001253

*Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)

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